GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6862
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
MINE SAFETY
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Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a): whether the Government propose to employ mechanised substitutes for hazardous mining operations :

(b): if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c): whether the Government have any proposal to engage labour and local population in mine safety; and

(d): if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL & MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b): Mechanisation of mining operations in the mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) is a continuous process which reduces the exposure of employees to hazardous conditions. Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) has adopted highly improved mechanised open cast mining technology in their mines ever since inception.

CIL has envisaged to enhance the present level of mechanised production of 257.32 Mt. (Opencast – 230.42 Mt. and Underground 26.90 Mt.) in 2001-02 (Provisional) to 327.79 Mt. (Opencast - 288.42 Mt. and Underground- 39.37 Mt.) in 2006-07 (Projected), break up of which is as under :

(Fig. in million tonnes)

Technology	2001-02(prov.)	2006- 07(Projection)
Mechanised OC	230.42	288.42
Conventional longwall	0.22	0.27
Mechanised Bord & Pillar(SDL/LHD)	24.13	31.31
Mechanised longwall	2.21	4.97
Continuous miner	NIL	2.33
Special methods & others	0.34	0.49
Total mechanised production	257.32	327.79

Mechanisation in all the existing underground mines is not feasible because of prevailing unfavourable geo- mining conditions like steep inclination, thickness variation, cavability etc.

(c) & (d): There is no proposal to involve the local population in promoting mine safety. Provision for involvement of workers in promoting mine safety already exists. There is an institution of Workmen's Inspector (in mines where employment per day is at least 500) to advise the Manager about safety matters in the mine. Also, Safety Committees are required to be provided in mines (where employment per day is at least 100) with at least 5 representatives from the workers. This Committee meets at least once a month.